

**From:** Joseph T. Manning  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/16/02 8:50pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

The very idea that Microsoft is capable of doing business in a competitive fashion is flawed. Microsoft came into being on the wings of monopolist tactics. Bill Gates was born into a wealthy family, and has never relied on Microsoft for a living. He bought the original MS-DOS operating system from acquaintances who had named it Q-DOS standing for Quick and Dirty Operating System. Once he owned it, he changed the name, and changed the help text, while making few if any substantive changes in the functional code of the operating system. He sold this quick and dirty operating system under the Microsoft label for one dollar a copy for several years, thus entrenching MS-DOS as the titan of the operating systems market. After enough years living through these narrow profit margins, he was able to bring about Microsoft Windows and began to raise his margins. Since then, Microsoft has continued to close out, buy out, bad mouth, and sabotage competitive companies to the absolute detriment of both consumers and the computer sector as a whole.

Microsoft claimed to be a technology innovator while retaining legacy MS-DOS code all the way into the Windows 98 operating system, and arguably beyond. I fail to see how twenty year old software code can be called "innovative".

In addition, you must be aware of the contempt Microsoft, its executives, and Bill Gates himself have shown toward the justice system, and toward consumers in their blatant disregard for previous legal settlements, and their tendency to buy, imitate, or steal products from competing companies.

Microsoft has been bad for consumers, bad for the computer industry, and a bad example that nonetheless is portrayed as one worthy of emulation.

I strongly urge you to levy the strongest penalties allowable under the law against Microsoft in a manner that does not allow for shoddy enforcement, or slippery noncompliance.

Thank you for your time,

Joseph T. Manning

jtd3@pop.cwru.edu

2046 Jolon Rd.

Bradley, CA. 93426

(805)-472-9254